

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 14, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-25 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-25 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 11, 14-16, 18-23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0198608 filed by Bruce Allen Smith ("Smith") in view of U.S. Patent 5,915,122 issued to Hiroshi Tsurumi ("Tsurumi") and U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0194412 filed by David A. Bottom ("Bottom"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the above claims are not rendered obvious by the cited art.

Claims 10, 17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith, Bottom and Tsurumi as applied to Claims 1 and 14 above, and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,735,704 issued to David Butka et al. ("Butka"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the above claims are not rendered obvious by the cited art.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith, Bottom and Tsurumi as applied to Claims 1 above, and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,766,222 issued to Raymond S. Duley ("Duley"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the above claims are not rendered obvious by the cited art.

Applicants have submitted declarations and supporting documents under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 to show that the invention described in the application was conceived and reduced to practice before the effective dates of the Smith reference and the Bottom reference. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Smith and Bottom references should be removed as prior art in this case. As the rejections above all rely on, among other references, Smith and Bottom applicants submit that all of the above rejections have been overcome. Applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of the §103 rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-25.

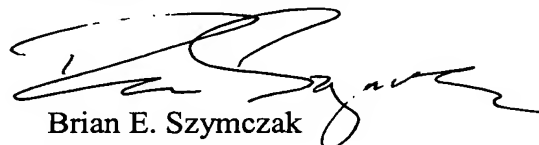
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants enclose a Petition for One Month Extension of Time, and a check in the amount of \$120.00 for the extension fee. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2548.

Respectfully submitted,
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